

FILM RIGHTS

To "Mice and Men" Are Acquired by the Famous Player's Company.

The Famous Players Film Company has acquired the film rights to Madeleine Lucette Eyley's celebrated play, "Mice and Men," once the popular starring vehicle of Annie Russell, in which they will shortly present Miss Marguerite Clark, the dainty and diminutive star who recently stepped from an eminent place behind the footlights to assume a position of supreme importance on the screen, in which she has won new and greater laurels. This subject is especially adapted to the versatile talents and bewitching mannerism of the youthful favorite.

In "Mice and Men," Miss Clark will portray the fascinating character of "Little Peggy," the winsome and pretty founding girl, who is adopted by the middle-aged, Mark Embury, with the idea of educating her along his own lines in order that she may become an ideal wife for the intellectual old bachelor. But, in accordance with the truth upon which the title of the play is founded, "the best laid plans of mice and men oft go astray," as the kindly but mistaken philosopher learns to his sorrow.

Wears a Very Pretty Gown



VERA SISSON VICTOR STARS IN A NEW SPRING CREATION OF SATIN AND CHIFFON

ONCE FAMOUS

(Continued from page 4, second sec.) One could not wish for more artistic lines in a gown than in the delightful creation worn by pretty Vera Sisson, the Victor star, in the accompanying illustration. It is of satin, a lovely orchid shade suffused with pink, not fitted but just adjusted to the figure which has a distinctiveness which cannot be denied.

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LeRoy, Talma, Bosco and a company of 50 European variety artists will come to the Robinson Grand, Tuesday night, March 29. The production is declared to be the largest ever seen in America with a magical show. One hundred tons of scenery and properties filling three baggage cars, three African lions and 100 head of other live stock are carried. The company reached America early last December from Australia. The European war caused a shift in the routing, and in consequence the monster magical production was routed through the United States. The premier at the Court theater, San Francisco, where the magicians played a fortnight, was probably the most successful engagement ever played by the followers of the black art in that city. Last week this company appeared at the Nixon theater, Pittsburgh. The entire press of that city is enthusiastic in its praise of the entertainment.

NEWSPAPER MAN

Johns Scenario Staff of the Vitagraph Company.

Joseph Gollomb, formerly of the Universal eastern scenario department, has joined the scenario department of the Vitagraph Company. Mr. Gollomb has been on the editorial staffs of the Evening World and the Evening Mail and is a graduate of C. O. N. Y. and Columbia University. He has also been dramatic critic on the Call and has written for Munsey, American, Harper's Weekly and other magazines.

DECREASE

Is Shown in Shipment of Coal over the Norfolk and Western.

CHARLESTON, Mar. 27.—The statement of the shipments of coal and coke over the lines of the Norfolk and Western railway for the month of February and the two months of the current year, has just been made public by T. D. Hobart, general coal freight agent. The statement shows 1,589,605 tons shipped during the month as against 1,762,344 tons during the same month last year, a decrease of 72,738 tons. For the two months of the year 3,645,750 tons were shipped over the lines, as compared with 3,326,344 tons during the same period in 1914, a decrease of 200,444 tons.

Nesbitt Shows Screen Fashions



Miriam Nesbitt shows three changes of costumes in the Edison three reel, "Killed against Orders." In one scene she wears a lace coat, trimmed with fur and a turban to match the bottom of the circular skirt of the purple velvet coat dress is edged with a band of mink fur, adding to the fashionable flare effect. In the scene in the fur department, she is dressed in a street costume. Another coat dress is worn later—an effective combination of battle dress gray and black. The undershirt is of gray taffeta with an over drapery of black chiffon. The jacket is gray brocade with an upstanding collar. The turban is of black velvet, relieved by a band of white.

RETURNS TO VITAGRAPH

Call of First Love is too Strong for Virginia Pearson.

Miss Virginia Pearson, well known for her excellent work in several Broadway productions in recent seasons, has returned to her first love, and has become a member of the Vitagraph forces. Miss Pearson made her first appearance on the screen in several Vitagraph productions, and she has retained the players of that company to appear in a number of new roles. Miss Pearson plans to create several difficult parts for her coming screen appearances.

Muriel Ostrich Joins Vitagraph



MURIEL OSTRICH.

The newest addition to the forces of the Vitagraph Company is Miss Muriel Ostrich, who has begun work. Miss Ostrich will be seen in a number of roles that are distinctly different from any work she has done previously. Her first appearance for the Vitagraph Company will be in a three reel feature.

Miss Ostrich recently was stricken blind while at work on a film, and for a time it was feared that she would never recover her sight, but she is now prepared for active work. Miss Ostrich has made quite a reputation for daring among her fans of bravery before the camera being a climb across a twenty-five foot chasm, three hundred feet in the air on a narrow strip of board. Miss Ostrich also spent twenty minutes in a cage with a tiger for a picture and she describes it as one of her most harrowing experiences. The young lady has been before the public for three years.

He's a Movie Cast Director, Which Means Miracle Man

Frank A. Grimmer is the cast director of the huge Thanhouser-Mutual film studio in New Rochelle, N. Y. That is a simple statement. Back of it is such a wealth of detail—Grimmer's detail and Thanhouser-Mutual wealth—as to make one marvel that one man can handle it all. For the life of any motion picture director, if he be a good man, is not the routine of the idle rich, and the cast director is the original work—every minute in twenty-four hours.



FRANK A. GRIMMER, THANHOU-SER-MUTUAL CAST DIRECTOR.

Grimmer is born to his work. Though he is only thirty years old, he had valuable stage training with Cohan & Harris. He is a master of the technique of photoplay and stage makeup a most considerable factor in theatrical success. Altogether Grimmer is the type who always is busy and yet finds time for more work, who always is rushed and yet never fails to make the chance to help others.

SCREEN FLASHES

Not many picture plays are self-starters.

"The Once Over," a rollicking one part "Beauty" comedy has been substituted for the drama, "Dreams Realized," which was announced by the American Film Manufacturing Company for release April 6.

George Wright, a new face to the Edison films, is cast for the exacting role of the Parisian "rat" in the forthcoming "In the Shadow of Death," an adaptation of Mary Inlay Taylor's "Fate and the Immigrant." As the murdered thief, he does some splendid work.

George E. Pearson, the well known character heavy of the Universal forces, has been chosen by the American Film Company of Santa Barbara, to enact the heavy part in the Chicago Tribune \$10,000 story, "A Diamond from the Sky."

Violet Mercereau takes the part of a dancing girl in "The Broken Toy."



VIOLET MERCEAU, IMP LEADING LADY, IN A GORGEOUS GIDDINGS' CREATION.

A new Imp production scheduled for release April 9.

"His Capture" is a cattle thief's own daughter in a new Laemmle photoplay of that name.

Supposing the movie hero were wristless, would the bashful young maiden fall in love with him? Answers considered only in regular order.

Since Mabel Trunnelle appeared as the gypsy madcap with her violin in the "Olive's Opportunities" she has received many requests from New York and Brooklyn little misses, asking her whether she would give them music lessons.

Refreshed after a prolonged rest following her appearance in "The Cup of Life," Bessie Barriscale is now working under the direction of Reginald Barker in an appealing story of chorus girl life entitled "The Reward."

The latest Bison picture play is a battle field drama, "And They Called Him 'Hero,'" with Francis Ford and Nina Cunard in the leading parts.

TALE OF GRIM REALITY.

William E. Wing, the author, has written another multiple reel story of his psychological series entitled "The Heritage of Toil," for the Selig Polyscope Company. It is a tale of grim reality and pathos.

LOVE CONQUERS.

In "Ashes of Gold," a Selig drama to be released this week, a man's passion for riches is overcome by love. Guy Oliver portrays the manufacturer, who has a great love for gold.

In "The Sister's Solace," a Biograph drama to be released tomorrow, a girl takes her twin sister's place as a bride. How the husband finds happiness in the end is vividly portrayed.

Baluchistan, Smyrna and Kerman shah rugs valued at thousands of dollars were loaned to Francis Ford, director of "The Thief of Bagdad."



GRACE CUNARD

Director of the Gold Seal (Universal) company, for use in the production of "The Hidden City," a two reel British Sepoy drama featuring Grace Cunard and Francis Ford.

Can You Imagine J. Warren Kerrigan on the screen with a scowling face? He is there with the scowl and the dark looks all right, all right in "The Guardian of the Weeks," a new Victor drama of Mexican love.

Alice Hollister is at her best when cast in roles of the "Vampire" type. In "The Siren's Reign," this splendid



ALICE HOLLISTER-KALEM.

actress enacts the title role. Critics who have seen the production declare that it shows the Kalem actress at her very best.

WINS GIRL THROUGH A PALM-READING HAG



In "The Fork in the Road," a powerful Selig drama, now being produced, a palm reading hag and a dream guide lead the hero to a deed of bravery that results in winning the girl he loves. The story is one of great appeal and possesses true medieval atmosphere.

BIG SUCCESS

Is Scored by John Barrymore in Film Production of "Are You a Mason?"

The prominent star, John Barrymore, who attained phenomenal popularity throughout the world as an irresistible screen comedian, in the two Famous Players Film Company's comedy triumphs, "An American Citizen" and "The Man from Mexico," surpasses both his former screen successes in the first part film adaptation of Leo Ditrachstein's excruciatingly funny farce, "Are You a Mason?" released March 22.

This subject was selected as the vehicle for Mr. Barrymore's return to the screen because it represents, more than any other comedy of similar reputation, the type of dramatic humor best adapted to the inimitable talents of this star.

A PIRATE LEADER.

Alan Hale and Louise Vale have the leads in "The Americano," a two reel Biograph feature scheduled for release Tuesday. In this picture, Americano, who is leader of a gang of pirates, proves his mettle and wins the girl he loves.

PREFERS MOVIES TO OPERATIC CAREER

Lure of Camera is Too Strong and Jode Mullally Joins Film Ranks.

Actors from the legitimate stage who have joined the photoplay ranks insist that the lure of the screen, with its open air work, its excitement and its vastness is a hundred fold stronger than the spell of the footlights.

This general opinion was borne out this week when it became public that Jode Mullally, the popular juvenile, had abandoned his plans of catering opera and had accepted an offer to play important leads with a Los Angeles studio.

Mullally several weeks ago quit the Loskey forces to go on the stage. He had hardly been away from his work a week when the insistent call of the camera began to din in his ears. He held out as long as he could but finally succumbed.

In accepting a place in one of the studios, he gives up several good opportunities in opera. One of them was with Constantino, the noted tenor, who believes that Mullally has a voice of rare quality and a big future in the world of music.

ARMORED AUTO

Is Blown Up in a Scene of "Pawns of Mars," a Big War Picture.

In "Pawns of Mars," an imaginative story of war between two mythical countries, written by Donald I. Buchanan, Director Theodore Marston blew up an armored automobile, using four sticks of dynamite. To film the explosion a three sided barricade of logs, lined with sheet iron and roofed over with the same material was placed within fifty feet of the automobile to be blown up.

Cameraman Reggie Lyons took his position in this shelter and although the barricade was literally bombarded by bits of flying metal, the camera escaped injury and two hundred feet of excellent negative was taken. "Pawns of Mars" is listed as a four part Broadway star feature that will have its initial showing at the Vitagraph theater.

DESERTS STAGE

Edward Connelly is to Portray Character Parts on the Screen.

Edward Connelly, who is appearing in an Ince feature production, agreeably surprised a small gathering of Inceville celebrities recently at his apartments in Los Angeles. They had been requesting the actor to render them a performance of "Marse Covington," the George Ade sketch which Mr. Connelly made famous in vaudeville for a number of years.

One day he informed them that if they would visit him that evening he would read some of the lines in his makeup. So Mr. Ince, Bessie Barriscale and Howard Hickman, her husband, went. There they found Mr. Connelly in the character of "Marse Covington." And it was in this garb he played the host to his guests.

Floods House To Get Lover



When a woman wills is humorously worked out in the Edison "In the Plumber's Grip" when Bessie Eyton, as the love torn lassie, deprived of her plumber sweetheart, makes his presence wanted by chopping the water pipes and flooding the house. The marriage takes place with the minister standing on a chair in the flooded bath room and the bride and bridegroom standing knee deep in the water, papa meanwhile having a little shower of his own under the burst pipe.

Camera Fails In Getting the Color of Hair

Few Film Fans Know Whether Their Favorite is Blonde or Brunette.

"Am I a blonde or a brunette?" This is the question that Bessie Eyton, the star of the Selig Pacific coast forces, insists not one film fan in a hundred can answer and answer correctly.

Miss Eyton, who has always been a keen student of the mechanical end of the motion picture business, comes out with the statement that here is one place where the camera with all its marvelous achievements, has failed woefully. While ready to admit that in some cases the color of a woman's hair may be judged from the lights

Bessie Eyton

(A Popular Selig Star.)



and shadows shown in certain positions taken during the making of a photoplay, Miss Eyton asserts that under normal conditions it is next to impossible to really tell the color of hair from seeing it on the screen.

Her assertion has opened an interesting line of discussion. Miss Eyton's hair is a golden auburn. In the pictures it shows more black than anything else. Mary Pickford looks like a brunette of a most pronounced type. Her hair is golden. Mabel Normand, another seeming brunette, is in reality a blonde. And so on through a score or more.

The pictures themselves seem to bear out Miss Eyton's contention.

FILM STAR

Gene Gauntier Joins Universal, Bringing Jack Clark Along with Her.

Miss Gene Gauntier has joined the Universal forces and has brought with her Mr. Jack Clark as leading man and director. Miss Gauntier had arisen to the very summit of her career as a feature film player. She was at the head of her own company, the mainstay of a feature film concern had her own studio, was billed as only such a star could be billed—but in spite of these seeming advantages she gave them all up to join the Universal forces.

Just what kind of pictures Miss Gauntier and Mr. Clark will make for the Universal is being kept a profound secret at the present writing, but that it is something big and important, no one who knows Miss Gauntier will for a moment doubt, for she is one of the most capable artists on the screen today and one of the most popular. Her first appearance will be awaited with the greatest interest.

Saved from a Life of Crime



Scheduled for early exhibition in moving picture theaters throughout the country is "The City of Terrible Night," an Imp drama featuring King Baggot, the well known star commonly called the "reel king." Mr. Baggot, a keen student of human nature and psychology, has appeared in many roles depicting the underworld with the express purpose of arousing an interest in our brethren who are not so fortunate as to have the good things in life. Especially did "The City of Terrible Night" appeal to him as it portrayed a phase of the life of a woman who was tied with the bonds of blood to a father unworthy of her association. This is a condition which, Mr. Baggot is assured, exists only too frequently in the slums of a great city.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Expires and Zona Keefe is Again with Vitagraph Company.

Zona Keefe, one of the Vitagraph favorites who got a leave of absence for a year to go into vaudeville, has returned to the Vitagraph company to resume her place in stock. Miss Keefe has a very charming and lovely personality and has always attracted attention to her versatility in her many portrayals.

Tittle Tattle

David Warfield will have a new play next season.

Francis Wilson has returned from a trip to Florida.

Julia Neilson and Fred Terry have revived "Sweet Nell of Old Drury" in London.

A new musical piece is called "The Lady in Red."

Nazimova is to go to London in her successful playlet "War Brides."

"Too Many Cooks" is to have a run in Chicago, beginning this month.

Notable, who played and sang the title role of "Adele" is to go into vaudeville.

"Mice and Men," in which Annie Russell scored such a success, is among the plays which is being adapted to the motion picture stage.

"The Panorama of Youth" by Havelley Manners, is to be produced in London, where the author is with his popular wife, Laurette Taylor.

Mrs. Robert Downing has appeared upon the vaudeville stage in a playlet by herself called "Not Wanted."

Hazel Dawn is to appear next season under the management of Charles Frohman in a musical play entitled "Sybil."

May Irwin is to appear in a new play, "No. 13 Washington Square," for a short spring season. It is a dramatization of the novel by Leroy Scott.

Lawrence Dorsay will appear in vaudeville in a sketch called "The Farmer's Luck" by Salisbury Maude.

Orville Harrold, the operatic tenor, is singing in vaudeville, which is now after the grand opera stars.

GIRL DISPATCHER OUTWITS THIEVES



In "The Girl at Lone Point," an episode of the "Harriet of Harlow" series, Helen Holmes gives battle to two big game, imprisoned by them in a box car, chaps her way to freedom and succeeds in bringing the thieves to justice. This picture will be released by the Kalem company this week.